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# United States Patent [19]

Speranza

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[54] FOOD DISPENSING CYCLE AND MEANS

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[\*] Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

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[58] Field of Search ..... 221/1, 150 R, 221/150 HC; 312/236, 249.8, 249.11; 165/918; 219/385, 386, 387

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## [57] ABSTRACT

A method of dispensing food whereby food prepared at a first location is transported to a second location for dispensing in a working cycle characterized by the steps of: apportioning the food onto a plurality of trays (20A, 20B) at the first location; loading the plurality of trays (20A, 20B) into a rack (15) to give, in combination, a spaced array of loaded trays; the spaced array having predetermined overall dimensions; transporting the spaced array to an intermediate location, placing the loaded rack into a containment (11) with an internal volume (12) of sufficient size to receive at least one spaced array; transporting the containment along with its spaced array or arrays to the second location; regenerating food in the spaced array while within the containment; dispensing loaded trays (20A, 20B) from the spaced array; and returning the racks (15) back to the first or some other location for re-use. Apparatus for dispensing food comprising a containment (11) adapted to receive at least, one removable rack (15), the rack being adapted to contain at least two removable trays (20A, 20B) for food for regeneration.

1 Claim, 2 Drawing Sheets

